

severe facial injuries. Jake continued his service in Germany and several areas in the U.S. before retiring in 1963.

Jake has received countless awards and honors for his steadfast service including: two Bronze Stars, four Purple Hearts, and a Silver Star. Following his service in Korea he was presented with the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1950, and yet refused the award, wishing to return to the lines with his men rather than become an officer. He subsequently received a Bronze Star and his fourth Purple Heart in its place.

He is survived by his wife Lela Fannon; his sons Tommy, Timmy, David, and Steve; and his 13 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jake Fannon for his exceptional service to our country and his efforts around the world. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Jake for an exceptional career and for his everlasting contributions.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION AMENDMENTS OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule.

I cannot believe the Majority will not even let us debate who should be allowed to receive an extension of unemployment insurance.

The extension that we will be allowed to vote on, provided this rule stands, will provide twenty six weeks of assistance to those few states that have exceeded an unemployment threshold of six percent. The unemployed workers in those six states receive the needed benefits, while those in other states receive only half of the extension. This bill ignores that specific areas have suffered high unemployment, but whose overall state unemployment rate has not exceeded the threshold.

In Boulder, which has a number of high-tech companies that have either closed up shop or laid off workers, I have seen a job loss rate exceeding sixteen percent between January of 2001 to January of 2003, this according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This has resulted in a substantial increase in unemployment, and considering the state of our economy, this trend doesn't seem like it will change soon. In fact, the average monthly claims for unemployment averaged a little over sixtyfive hundred claims per month in 2001, by the end of 2002 that number had jumped to over eleven thousand three hundred. But since Colorado's unemployment level has been just below six percent these workers will be in trouble if they can't find a job within the allotted thirteen weeks, if this bill passes.

This isn't just a problem in Colorado. This is a national problem and we need to treat it as such.

But the Majority has created a rule that will not allow us to even consider amendments that would help those Americans who are struggling and cannot find employment.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote no on the rule.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2185, UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION AMENDMENTS OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this unfair rule and the underlying bill. I stand in solidarity with my colleagues who believe that this body should act in the best interests of all Americans and not only the few. I also stand to speak for those Americans who are not here to speak for themselves. I am here to say that many of them are hurting. They are unemployed and their Federal unemployment benefits are about to run out. Beyond the unemployed individuals themselves, there are countless children and families who depend on them. They are hurting, too.

If this bill is passed without amendment over 69,000 Texans will be left out. That is almost 70,000 people from my State who will not be helped by the Republicans bill. Furthermore, this summer, 39,000 Texans will face the end of their Federal unemployment benefits. This is disgraceful and it is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, in my district, the unemployment rate is 6.2 percent. In Texas, there are over  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a million people who are unemployed. During the 2 years of this administration, thousands of jobs have been lost in my State. During that same period millions of jobs have been lost across the country. The Democrats have been trying to make that point to our colleagues on the other side of the aisle but they remained deaf to the people's concerns.

Soon across the United States more than 1 million Americans will have exhausted both their state and Federal unemployment benefits yet they will still be unemployed. There are now 3.4 unemployed workers for every one job opening. As a result of the weak economy, this country has lost more than 500,000 jobs Justin the last 3 months. In fact, 70 percent more workers have currently exhausted their Federal benefits than during the recession of the early 1990s.

According to the Joint Economic Committee, the persistence of job losses at the 2-year mark in this recession is unprecedented since the Great Depression. That is a stunning fact. And it is the reason, the legislation put forth by the Democrats calls for \$18 billion to extend and strengthen unemployment benefits this year. The Republican bill on the other hand only provides \$6 billion.

Our Republican colleagues have failed to do anything to help the millions of Americans who need jobs. Rather than re-igniting the economy so that job creation would occur, the Republicans have passed staggering tax cuts that benefit the wealthy far more than the average working or unemployed person. Now the Republicans put forth this bill in an effort to persuade the American people that they are listening and responding to the needs of the unemployed. However, their bill does not do enough.

When we have the opportunity to help all unemployed workers why don't we take that opportunity? When we know that more people

will need assistance 2 months from today, why don't we offer it to them? When we have the chance to provide help for the families of long-term unemployed people while they struggle to make ends meet and to find another job—any job that will allow them to take care of their families—why don't we do so? These are the questions I pose to my Republican colleagues.

When Republicans have the chance to do more to help the families of the unemployed they decide not to do so and instead propose this perfunctory bill that will help some but not enough. That is the most egregious element of this bill. They choose to leave out many Americans when the Democrats would include them. If the Republicans would allow the substitute bill to be heard on the floor they would learn that the Democrats have a better piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, if this rule is not defeated I will vote in favor of this amendment but I will continue to push for a stronger bill that helps more Americans. And I will continue to work for legislation that helps put Americans back to work.

#### RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL JERRY S. CHASTAIN

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 2, 2003*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Jerry S. Chastain for his brave service in the United States Military during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Upon his graduation from the Citadel, Lieutenant Colonel Chastain was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps. Since then, he has served both at home and abroad in the United States, Europe and Kuwait. Some of his assignments include Supply Platoon Leader and Battalion S-4, Supply and Services Officer, A Company Commander, Future Readiness Officer, Executive Officer for the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, and J4 Logistics Commander. In all of his positions, he has demonstrated integrity and excellent leadership.

Lieutenant Colonel Chastain has been recognized with many honors during his time in the military. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with Three Oak Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, the NATO medal, the Army Staff Badge, the Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.

Lieutenant Colonel Chastain has repeatedly demonstrated his devotion and commitment to this country. He has boldly stood in defense of our Nation and a free world. He serves as an admirable role model for his three sons and for all American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend the gratitude of myself and an entire Nation to Lieutenant Colonel Jerry S. Chastain for his service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his courageous efforts and wishing him well as he returns home.